

AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS:

Please delete the current Figure 1 and insert the replacement drawing figure submitted herewith.

REMARKS

A petition to extend the time for response by two (2) months is enclosed herewith.

Claims 10-19 were previously pending in the application. By the Amendment, Claims 10, 17 and 18 are currently amended, new Claims 20 and 21 have been added, and Claims 11-16 and 19 remain unchanged.

The specification, including Abstract of the Disclosure is under objection. The Applicant has provided a new Abstract and has included the arrangement of the specification in a manner suggested by the Examiner in the outstanding Official Action. Further paragraphs [0014] and [0016] have been amended to recite "the figure". Based on the foregoing, the objection to the specification is now moot and should be withdrawn.

The drawings are under objection because the label "Fig. 1" should be removed. The drawings are also under objection because the figure does not include a reference numeral mentioned in the description, specifically for the electronic system 7. Further, the drawings are required to illustrate the memory connected to the sensor, the data network, the telephone network and the separate device. It should be noted that the memory 9 is illustrated as being connected to the sensor. The remaining items have been added to the Figure, with a new drawing sheet enclosed herewith, and the specification has been amended to address and correct each of the problems giving rise to the outstanding objection.

Claims 17 and 18 are also under objection and have been amended in a manner to cure the informalities identified in the Official Action and it is requested that all objections be withdrawn.

Substantively, the claims stand rejected under the cited prior art of record. Specifically, Claims 10 and 14-16 were rejected under 35 USC §102(b) as being anticipated by US Patent No. 6553774 to Ishio et al. (Ishio '774). Claims 11-13 were rejected under 35 USC §103(a) as being unpatentable over Ishio '774 in view of GB Patent No. GB 2152673 to Severn (Severn '673). Claims 17-18 were rejected under 35 USC §103(a) as being unpatentable over Ishio '774. Claim 19 was rejected under 35 USC §103(a) as being unpatentable over Ishio '774 in view of US Patent No. 4482785 to Finnegan et al. (Finnegan '785).

Independent Claim 10 recites a household appliance including at least one sensor for detecting at least one operating parameter of the household appliance, a memory connected permanently to the sensor for periodically recording the value of the operating parameter detected by the sensor and an interface for reading out the content of the memory.

New Independent Claim 20 recites a household appliance comprising at least one sensor for detecting at least one operating parameter of the household appliance, a memory connected permanently to the sensor for periodically recording the value of the operating parameter detected by the sensor, an interface for reading out the content of the memory, and a remote service device in selective operative communication with the interface for use by a service designate for diagnosing problems with the appliance.

As can be seen from the foregoing, the present invention is directed to an apparatus for recording data associated with appliance operation and moving that data to a remote device which can be used by service personnel to diagnose failures within the appliance.

Ishio '774 is directed to a self-diagnosing apparatus for a refrigerator, operable to a diagnosis level and beyond without input from service personnel. There, a detector is provided to detect a plurality of condition indicative quantities

with respect to the refrigerator and a diagnosis arrangement which compares the condition indicative quantities or diagnosis calculation values which are calculated based on the condition indicative values with a predetermined threshold value and judges whether an operation of the refrigerator is normal or abnormal and ultimately selects a predetermined improvement action which is set in advance for diagnosed abnormal condition (Col. lines 63-67; Col. 2, lines 1-7).

The present invention, as claimed, does not provide a self-diagnosing apparatus for a refrigerator, but rather provides a data recordation system which can provide data to a remote device for evaluation by service personnel to determine the failure cause within the appliance, either on-site or from a central service center.

Severn '673 teaches a telephone interface or cordless interface. Nevertheless, a combination of Severn '673 and Ishio '774 would not result in the present invention. Further, there is no teaching or motivation to combine Ishio '774 with Severn '673.

Finnegan '785 is directed to a system where installations that involve large freezer compartment groups including large numbers of thermal sensors include means for determining the identity of an individual thermal sensor among many causing the alarm. As seen in Figure 1d, an optional remote control and monitor unit 12 serve to identify one of several sensors in a group that causes an alarm by sensor identity number assigned to each sensor. (Col. 7, lines 48-56).

As can be seen, Finnegan '785 fails to cure the deficiencies of Ishio '774 and, a combination of Finnegan '785 and Ishio '774 would not result in the present invention. In addition, there is no teaching or motivation to combine Finnegan '785 and Ishio '774.

For these and other reasons, Ishio '774 does not disclose the subject matter defined by independent Claim 10. Therefore, Claim 10 is allowable. Claims 14-16 depend from Claim 10 and are allowable for the same reasons and also because they recite additional patentable subject matter.

For these and other reasons, Ishio '774 and Severn '673, either alone or in combination, do not teach or suggest the subject matter defined by dependent Claims 11-13. Therefore, Claims 11-13 are allowable. In addition, Claims 11-13 depend from Claim 10 and are allowable for the same reasons and also because they recite additional patentable subject matter.

For these and other reasons, Ishio '774 does not teach or suggest the subject matter defined by dependent Claims 11-13. Therefore, Claims 11-13 are allowable. In addition, Claims 11-13 depend from Claim 10 and are allowable for the same reasons and also because they recite additional patentable subject matter.

For these and other reasons, Ishio '774 and Finnegan '785, either alone or in combination, do not teach or suggest the subject matter defined by dependent Claim 19. Therefore, Claim 19 is allowable. In addition, Claim 19 depends from Claim 10 and is allowable for the same reasons and also because additional patentable subject matter is recited.

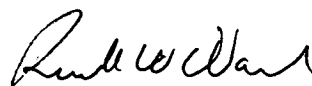
For these and other reasons, Ishio '774, Severn '673 and Finnegan '785, either alone or in any combination, do not disclose, teach or suggest the subject matter defined by new independent Claim 20. Therefore, Claim 20 is allowable.

For these and other reasons, Ishio '774, Severn '673 and Finnegan '785, either alone or in any combination, do not disclose, teach or suggest the subject matter defined by new independent Claim 21. Therefore, Claim 21 is allowable.

CONCLUSION

In view of the above, entry of the present Amendment and allowance of Claims 11-19 are respectfully requested. If the Examiner has any questions regarding this amendment, the Examiner is requested to contact the undersigned. If an extension of time for this paper is required, petition for extension is herewith made.

Respectfully submitted,



Russell W. Warnock

Registration No. 32,860

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BSH Home Appliances Corporation
100 Bosch Blvd.
New Bern, NC 28562
Phone: 252-672-7927
Fax: 714-845-2807
russ.warnock@bshg.com